

MSFD review of GES Decision and MSFD Annex III

Proposal for content and format of the D1 (biodiversity) workshop.

The workshop intends to build on the manual's key recommendations (May 2015 consultation version) and provide clear proposals and conclusions on the outstanding issues. The following section presents a preliminary list of issues to be included in the workshop agenda and will be finalised, taking into consideration further suggestions from the Member States and stakeholder via the Consultation process and DG ENV:

1. Changes in criteria and indicators

Issue 1.1: Criterion 1.7 “ecosystem structure” to be eliminated or re-defined with a clearer content

Issue 1.2: Identification of overlaps in criteria and indicators across Descriptors, aggregation and assessment method to clarify GES determination and aggregation rules

2. Common lists of elements for the biodiversity assessments

Issue 2.1: Compilation of existing lists of elements from other EU legislation, MSFD documents and RSCs. Specification of elements to be assessed under the three levels (species, habitats, ecosystems). Link with monitoring parameters. Proposal for using EU-wide classifications for Habitats (EUNIS).

3. Habitat/Bird Directives, Common Fisheries Policy and D1

Issues 3.1: Practical use of HBD assessments for MSFD; links of their status classification approaches (FCS vs GES, GECS vs GES); Streamlining of assessments, including scales of assessments, “indicators” and directives’ objectives, use of HBD quality standards for MSFD.

4. Proposal for changes in the COM Decision text regarding D1 implementation

Issue 4.1: Clarification of biodiversity terms, GES boundaries, proposal for common methodological standards under each criterion.

5. AOB suggested by the participants and included in the final agenda

Workshop's format: a 2,5 days workshop, possibly back-to-back with a workshop on D2 (many MS nominated experts are common to the 2 Descriptors). Plenary and group sessions, depending on final content and expected participation.

Venue: JRC Ispra

Dates: 7th (midday) -9th September 2015